

FINAL

**THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
JANUARY 18, 2005
REGULAR MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: David Brown, Chairman; Paul Coggin

STAFF: George Leary, General Manager; John Stoops

OTHERS: Jim Murphy, Benefit Planning Services

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laurel Lindstrom hoped that everyone had had a chance to look through a plan that her neighborhood association had put together. Portions of the plan are in the Third Taxing District noting that at some point they would be coming back for further comments with regard to funding.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Coggin noted their appreciation of the plan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 20 2004 & January 10, 2005

**** MR. COGGIN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20 AND JANUARY 10, 2005 AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. BROWN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS

Mr. Leary noted that Jim Murphy would be joining the meeting.

Mr. Brown suggested they take up the rest of the agenda until such time.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT P&L FORECAST FOR
7/1/04-6/30/05 AND 7/1/05-6/30/06**

Mr. Leary referred to the projections in the handout noting that he had updated page 3 to reflect changes. He suggested that they re-visit this in the spring taking another look at the projections.

Mr. Brown noted that this would be discussed further under rate change proposals.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Coggin referred to Norden generators, asking the price of the fence.

Mr. Leary replied that it was approximately \$600.

Mr. Coggin referred to the lamp program, noting that he was at Right Aid and he did not see any mention of the Third Taxing District; he asked if this could be addressed by either updating the appropriate signage or inform the people who created the marketing material and express their dissatisfaction. He asked for follow up that Mr. Leary would report back on the CL&P signage.

Mr. Leary said regarding the sound wall under the Norden report the sound engineer would be available on Thursday.

Mr. Brown referred to an editorial from the Hour newspaper; saying he was concerned as they are doing all they can to keep their prices down.

Mr. Leary said if they could find a place to put a sign to announce forth coming events would be great.

Mr. Coggin suggested a billboard that could be replaced with a community sign. He explained the current issues relating to the billboards and the MTA noting that the delay is now with the state DOT.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Coggin suggested that Mr. Leary come up with five locations and sign styles that would work.

OPERATING REPORTS

Mr. Leary referred to the reports included in the back up material.

There was discussion of the numbers.

Mr. Coggin requested that a line item be added for the Trust Company of Connecticut and whenever they receive quarterly numbers for them to be added. He thanked Mr. Leary for including outage summary reports and for putting the report together.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS *Continued*

Mr. Leary introduced Jim Murphy saying that health insurance will be going up but there are some options.

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Mr. Murphy (Benefit Planning Services) said there are some increases in the current plan Health Net and the issue is to they have to take the 17% increase. He explained the details of the plan and how they relate to the district. He suggested the following as a means of savings. To take the plan outside of Health Net Direct and take it to the Connecticut Business and Industry Associate Plan, this way they wouldn't change the carrier they would still have Health Net as it is offered through the Connecticut Business and Industry Associate Plan. In living up to benefit levels in contracts to the unions, Mr. Murphy said they could take the current benefit level and give them the same company and to take a plan that is less expensive. He went through the basic numbers of the plan.

There was a discussion regarding cost sharing and the different plans that are available including prescription drugs.

Mr. Brown recommended that they take Mr. Murphy's advice and change to CBIA on February 1, 2005.

**** MR. COGGIN MOVED TO CHANGE THE HEALTH INSURANCE TO HEALTH NET THROUGH CBIA ON FEBRUARY 1, 2005 AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$80,914 AS RECOMMENDED BY JIM MURPHY ASSOC., AND BENEFIT PLANNING SERVICES FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES UNDER 65 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY UNION AGREEMENT DEFICIENCIES BE MADE UP THROUGH SELF INSURANCE.**

**** MR. BROWN SECONDED.**

Mr. Coggin noted that they would have to anticipate budgeting \$20,000 for the self-insurance, which would bring the total annual cost for the active employees and the retirees less than 65 to \$100,000 (approximately).

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RATE CHANGE PROPOSAL

Mr. Leary referred to his memo of January 12, 2005. At the last meeting Mr. Leary said he was asked to put together rates to include the new purchase power adjustment; in doing this and going through the rates, if they are going to re-file rates that they ought to do more than fold in the purchase power adjustment. He suggested that they extend the purchase power adjustment at its present rate until there is a need to change it.

Mr. Coggin went through the figures and asked if this could be looked at to find out what changes need to be made to the base rate.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Coggin noted that it was his goal to make the published rates reflective of customer costs.

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Mr. Brown suggested in their March meeting they look at fuel adjustment again to get a better understanding of the proposals in order to take action during the May meeting.

Mr. Stoops indicated that this is the core of the business and they should all agree on how to proceed and the urgency is to get this right.

Mr. Coggin noted that he would send out a summary email to illustrate all that needs to be done. With regard to the format he suggested that instead of RSF Increase it would say RSF Change and with regard to the line that states Total Special Projects, he suggested that after that line to add a new line Reserve Replenishment and then to separate it to show that they are replenishing the reserves.

METER CAR PURCHASE

Mr. Leary referred to the memo in the handout on the Meter Car. He said he had a couple of questions that he has not been able to resolve with the lowest bidder – the dealer quoted a white Chevrolet Aveo, however Mr. Leary indicated that he had asked for yellow as this is what the advertisement had shown and wanted to know why they had not been quoted for a yellow car.

There was discussion about the color of the car and if it would cost more to have a yellow vehicle.

Mr. Coggin suggested that fix yellow lights to the top of the truck.

Mr. Leary indicated that this would be an after-market add-on, the dealer would not do that.

- ** MR. COGGIN VOTED TO AWARD AN ORDER TO DAN PERKINS
CHEVROLET FOR A FOUR-DOOR AVEO COMPACT CAR, COLOR
YELLOW IF POSSIBLE, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.**
- ** MR. BROWN SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NORDEN FUEL SUPPLY

Mr. Leary said they can operate the Norden Generators on low sulfur diesel and he confirmed this with Gault. The DEP cancelled the permits on these units and classified them as emergency generators that can use diesel (that trucks use).

Mr. Brown commented that this is a great solution.

Mr. Coggin stated the conceptually this is the way to go.

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FUNDS DISBURSEMENT POLICY & RESOLUTION

Mr. Leary said they made the changes that Attorney Dennin suggested during the last meeting.

**** MR. COGGIN MOVED TO ADOPT THE DRAFT FUNDS DISBURSEMENT POLICY DATED 12/21/04, WITH CHANGES, AND THE ACCOMPANYING CORPORATE RESOLUTION.**

Mr. Coggin read the following: For the dispersement of regular weekly, personnel payroll wages, only when two commissioners are not available to sign payroll checks after a reasonable effort has been made to contact all three commissioners the general manager is authorized to sign the payroll checks as a second signatory.

**** MR. BROWN SECONDED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIREHOUSE REPAIRS

Mr. Leary stated repairs are required in the kitchen and now would be the time to put in a dishwasher. He requested that the Fire Department make sure that enough is budgeted for maintenance in the building.

**** MR. COGGIN MOVED TO APPROPRIATE \$3800 FROM DISTRICT FUNDS FOR KITCHEN AND OTHER PLUMBING WORK IN THE FIREHOUSE.**
**** MR. BROWN SECONDED.**

Mr. Brown asked if the dishwasher is considered to be part of a capital improvement on the building and noted that he was not in favor of this purchase.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EAST NORWALK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Leary indicated that he had received a call and the dues to join this would be \$25.00 a year and they are willing to have one of the commissioners sit on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Brown said they should not sit on their Board or be a member of the organization as they are a governmental body.

Mr. Coggin requested a copy of their Charter and by-laws.

PROPOSED MEETING DATE FOR GENERAL MANAGER'S REVIEW

Mr. Brown said they had talked about the amount of work and effort and asked if they should make this date happen before the annual meeting.

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There was discussion of the dates.

Mr. Brown suggested a special meeting with that being the only thing on the agenda.

Commissioners agreed that they would discuss this during the regular meeting of February 7, 2005 and they would use the same forms as used last year.

Mr. Leary said he started to update the funds available for distribution at the annual meeting. He said he was inclined to use the audited figures of fiscal year 2004 and at what point do they want to take the snap shot, as the Charter is unclear.

Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. COGGIN SECONDED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Kye
Telesco Secretarial Services